A

LETTER

FROM

Daniel de Foe

TO

Mr. Matthews

PRINTER in *LITTLE-BRITAIN.*

About the Birth of the PRETENDER.

LONDON

Printed and Sold by the Booksellers of *London* and *Westminster* 1711.

Price One Penny.

SIR,

I AM inform'd, by Mr. *Matthews*, that you have been enquiring after me about a Horse that I hir'd; when I come to Town I will endeavour to see you, and make an end of that matter, by giving full Satisfaction to the poor injur'd Man.

In the mean time I will shew you how the *Scotch* are a company of Rebels against our Constitution, and run down the *Revolution*, and call it no better than a Rebellion against God and the King; and that all that had a Hand in bringing it about, and maintaining it, deserve to be hang'd. They cry up King *James* the VIII, and say, the People of *England* are mad or bewitch'd to question his Legitimacy. I find all sorts, of what Religion soever, are for him, and drink his Health every Day. In a word, they out-do all the *Jacobites* in *England*. They gave me this Account of him, to prove that he is the lawful King.

They told me the Queen, King *James* the VIII's Mother, being come to her full Time, gave Notice she was in Labour. A Newborn Babe, with all that was Natural to it, was taken out of the Bed in the greatest Presence that ever was at any Labour, both for Number and Quality. He was seen, and his Navel-string was cut in the Presence of many of them who were present at the Labour. All the Neighbours of the Father's Quality, congratulated his happy Birth to his Parents in the usual Forms, and the Next Heirs acknowledg'd him in the same Form that all others did. They pray'd for him in their Domestick Chappel, 'till they began to call his Birth in Question, and got their Partizans to give out, that he was another Woman's Son, and that they would produce the true Mother, which they never did.

Upon their Questioning his Birth, which they had own'd and acknowledg'd solemnly before God and Man, the Father call'd the Witnesses of his Birth to make their Depositions.

Then the Mid-wife swore she took him from his Mother's Body.
A great Lady, in the Interest of the next Heirs, swore she laid her Hand on his Mother's Belly in her Labour, *and felt it fall.*
Others swore She had Milk in her Breasts before and after his *Birth.*

The Depositions and many others, were taken before Notaries, and registred as a Record, and ought to stand as Authentick, and be-

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be esteem'd True and certain, 'till better and clearer Proof is made that these Depositions are false; because all judicial Proofs and Depositions are, in Law, to be taken for True and Satisfactory, 'till contradictory and better judicial Proofs and Depositions are brought to disprove them, which never was done in this Case.

Again: All contradictory Reports, concerning the Birth of any Person, prove one another to be False; such as the Reports that the Queen, his Mother, was not with Child of him; and was with Child of him but miscarried: Also, That she did not miscarry, but brought him forth, and afterwards changed him, all these prove one another to be false,

Again, To Abjure the Birth-right of an Innocent Person, whose Birth hath all the common Proofs, and more than any other Birth ever yet had, which were never disprov'd; to Abjure such an one, is Unjust, Unchristian, and Perjury in the very Act of Abjuration.

Again, To abjure any Person, or set aside his Right upon the score of his Religion, is Popery, and contrary to the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, and the Preaching of her most famous Divines, and the solemn Determinations of her Universities.

They have many other Arguments by which they prove *James* the Eighth to be their King, they say, one own'd by both Father and Mother, is by the Law of all Nations to be taken for a True Son, till he is legally prov'd to be an Impostor.

They say, The Birth of a Child which was never prov'd to be false, by a great powerful, vigilant and malicious Party, which called it into Question, is a true and certain Birth; and such they say is their King's, which never was disprov'd by the next Heirs, who call'd it into Question, and declar'd they would examine into it, but durst not do it, though they had Power, Malice and Opportunity to do it, if it could possibly by any Means have been done. Besides, his Father call'd upon them publickly, to disprove it if they could, or else to hold it for Truth, and acknowledge his Birth and Birth-right, unto which he has a Legal Title, seing it has never legally been disprov'd, or can be. Therefore all his Subjects (say these Slaves to Hereditary Right) are bound in Duty and Conscience to receive him and adhere to him, and fight for him as God's Vice-gerent. They never consider the Liberty of the Subject, and the Original Contract between King and People, which has been clearly prov'd by the Reverent Mr. *Hoadley*, in his Excellent Books on that Head, and also by many of the *Reviews*, which you may see at your leisure. I will say no more at present, but if Men of these Opinions had been all hang'd by the too merciful King *William*, we had been in a happy Condition. I am, Sir

Your Friend and Servant

D. F.

I have sent you this in a Friend's Pacquet to save Charge.

Edr. Jan. 22. 1711.

MR. *de* Foe's *Travelling-Occasions, about three Years since, having led him into* Warwickshire *to Encourage the Faction there, as well as elsewhere, he could not but pay his Respects to the* Brethren, *who at that time were very Numerous in* Coventry. *Amongst the rest of those whose good Graces and Pockets he insinuated himself into: One* Mayo, *a poor Man, whose whole Support depended on Letting of Horses, had not the least Confidence in him; which he laying hold of, improv'd into being Credited for the Hire of a Horse of him, worth about* 10 *Pounds. But instead of returning it, what does our* Worshipful Squire, *thus dignify'd and distinguish'd from his pretended Intimacy with K.* William, *or his Noble* Subscribers *in* Scotland, *but takes this* Cheval *down to* Scotland *with him, without any notice of the Man that Lent it him, in hopes of purchasing the Title of a* Chevalier *by his great Friends Interest. What became of the Horse after the space of above three Years, Fame has not told us, but the Owner of it finding no return of it, wrote up to a Friend in* London, *who left a Letter at Mr.* Matthews *the Printers in* Little-Britain, *concerning the Premises, that was transmitted to him at* Edinburgh * *and had the foregoing Answer in return to it; which the Reader is to observe owns the matter of Fact, and might convince him, were not his Ignorance in the learned Languages so Notorious, that* Daniel *is a better Scholar than those that know him, take him to be, and has read* Martial's Epigrams, *where the Poet cries out to such another Trifler as himself,* Dic aliquid de tribus Capellis. *This is Printed to be bound up with his* Reviews, *and is Word for Word thus, the Original being in the Persons Hands that makes this Publick.*

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* Where he pretends he was by the Date of his Letter (tho' 'tis presum'd he was then in *London* or *Westminster*.)

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